

What's New in the MPDC

JUNE 25, 2001

METRO TRANSIT OFFICER LAID TO REST; SUSPECT ARRESTED IN PHILADELPHIA

Two days before Metro Transit Officer Marlon Morales was laid to rest on Wednesday, June 20, the MPDC and Metro Transit Police announced the issuance of an arrest warrant for a 33-year-old suspect in the officer's homicide. The warrant charges Walter Orlando Johnson of Philadelphia with First Degree Murder While Armed in connection with the June 10 shooting of Officer Morales at the U Street/African American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo Metrorail station. Johnson is currently being held by police in Philadelphia, where he was arrested on June 14 as the result of a traffic stop. He was reportedly found to be in possession of the slain officer's handgun when stopped by Philadelphia police. The MPDC is working with the United States Attorney's Offices here and in Philadelphia in an effort to seek the extradition of Johnson back to DC. Officer Morales is survived by a wife and three children, ages 11, 8 and 4 weeks. A special fund to support the Morales family has been established by Metro. For information, call Metro at 202-637-7000. Read the news release about the arrest of Walter Johnson at:

In addition to the special fund for the family of Officer Morales, the DC area is blessed with an organization dedicated to supporting the families of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty. For more information about HEROES, Inc. – Honor Every Responsible Officer's Eternal Sacrifice – and how you can contribute, visit their Web site at:

www.heroes-inc.org

www.mpd.org (Click on News)

JUNE "CHAMPS" OF THE MPDC

Auto theft is often more than just a simple property crime – it frequently involves armed and dangerous offenders. Just ask Officer Darenn BeMiller of the Third District, who works the regional WAVE (Washington Area Vehicle Enforcement) team. Last December, while involved in surveillance of a recently carjacked Jeep Cherokee, he came upon the vehicle stopped on Suitland Parkway, one of its tires blown and U.S. Park Police officers providing assistance. Once Officer BeMiller positively identified the vehicle, the suspect was taken into custody, a loaded 9mm handgun was recovered from his clothing, and it was discovered that the suspect was wearing a wig sewn into a hat to disguise his identity. Less than two months later, Officer BeMiller was working with the WAVE unit in 6D when he identified a Dodge Intrepid stolen from Prince George's County. After stopping the vehicle, the driver drew a handgun and fled on foot. After WAVE officers apprehended the suspect, BeMiller realized it was the same suspect in the earlier incident. His quick action in both incidents resulted in a dangerous criminal being removed from the streets and earned Officer BeMiller the Departmental Officer of the Month honors at the June CHAMPS (Capitol Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) awards luncheon, held at the Ritz Carlton. Read more about Officer BeMiller's heroics, as well as the stories of all the June awardees, at:

www.mpd.org (Click on Heroes of the MPDC)

EAST OF THE RIVER PARTNERSHIP KICKS OFF “40 DAYS OF INCREASED PEACE”

Buoyed by their progress in reducing youth violence, the East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership (CPCP) and the Metropolitan Police Department are kicking off “40 Days of Increased Peace” – an intensive, community-based effort to bring down violence while building up communities. The “40 Days” begins on Saturday, June 23, with a kick-off meeting at MPD’s Regional Operations Command-East headquarters (Pennsylvania and Branch Avenues, SE), as well as food distribution on Alabama Avenue, SE, and a family day on Clay Terrace, NE. The “40 Days” concludes on August 1, with a block party in the 4100 block of First Street, SE. Events in the intervening days include a variety of athletic, spiritual, health and other outreach activities targeting young people and families. Get more details, including a complete schedule of events, at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

FIREWORKS SAFETY – KNOW THE LAW IN DC

With the 4th of July less than two weeks away, many people are thinking about backyard fire works. In DC, only a few types of fireworks can be legally purchased, possessed or used. Among the fireworks prohibited in the District are firecrackers of all kinds, cherry bombs, Roman candles and bottle rockets. And regardless of the type of fireworks you may be dealing with, it is always important to be safe. You can brush up on DC’s fireworks laws and get links to valuable fireworks safety tips at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Safety Tips)

SCHOOL’S OUT – CURFEW REMAINS IN EFFECT

With school out for the summer, more young people are out in our neighborhoods, often later at night. The MPDC wants to remind young people, their parents and the community that DC has a curfew law and that police will be enforcing it this summer. In July and August only, curfew hours are from 12 midnight to 6 a.m., seven days a week. (During the other 10 months of the year, curfew begins at 11 p.m., on weeknights.) The goal of the curfew law is to reduce the risk of crime and victimization involving young people. The curfew applies to all young people under the age of 17 who are in the District (whether they are DC residents or not). The MPDC’s curfew enforcement strategy is, first and foremost, to reunite violators with their families, without having to hold young people at police facilities or issue citations. However, for chronic violators, the law does allow for parents or other responsible adults to receive fines and/or community service for violations. For detailed information on DC’s curfew law, click on:

www.mpdc.org/English/safetytips/curfew.htm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
WWW.MPDC.ORG